

**Senate Committee on Education
January 11, 2012**

**Department of Public Instruction Testimony
on 2011 Senate Bill 348**

I want to thank Chairperson Olsen and members of the committee for the opportunity to testify before you today. My name is Jennifer Kammerud and I am the Legislative Liaison for the Department of Public Instruction. On behalf of State Superintendent Tony Evers I am here today to testify in support of Senate Bill 348 (SB 348).

As part of the law revision process, all agencies are asked by Legislative Council to forward any law revision requests for consideration by the Law Revision Committee. Basically any provisions forwarded are not supposed to include any policy changes. All provisions forwarded by the department were approved by the Law Revision Committee and are in front of you today in SB 348.

The bill eliminates two outdated statutory references to the 2005 biennial budget that are no longer applicable. One is a reference to nonstatutory language that funded a pilot program for the Second Chance Partnership for the 2005-06 and 2006-07 school years only. The second directed the DPI to pay the Educare Center of Milwaukee during the 2005-07 biennium.

Additionally, the department is requesting three name changes. The first would change the Division of Libraries, Technology and Community Learning to the Division of Libraries and Technology. This reflects the elimination of a community learning team and reassignment of some of that work to other divisions to which it was more aligned.

The second would change the name of the Division of Learning Support, Equity, and Advocacy to simply the Division for Learning Support. This reflects the elimination of a separate team on equity issues and more accurately depicts what the division does with its work in student support services like special education, counseling, social work, and student health.

The third name change the department is requesting is to move from the Reference and Loan Library to the Resources for Libraries and Lifelong Learning Services. This new name was requested by our staff as they feel it is more representative of the role the library now plays. The original name dates back to 1965 when the library was literally that, a traveling reference and loan library for those without local library service.

Finally, the bill would reconcile conflicting provisions in statute related to library system membership and state aids. Current statutes say that libraries can give preference to residents in group programs and limit remote access to its databases to those residents and still belong to a library system. When the department revised library statutes in 2005, however, a drafting error was made regarding the circumstances under which a library system is eligible for state aid and only the preference to group programs was referenced. This change would simply reconcile these two provisions by recognizing that libraries can limit remote access to their databases to their residents. This change would not affect the payment of state aids.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB 348 and I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.